

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 971
By Herron

A RESOLUTION to recognize and commend Coach Don Durden of Greenfield for his outstanding career as a coach, teacher and molder of character.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those dedicated Tennesseans whose chosen vocation has been to coach high school athletic teams and to mold the characters of young men and women through the discipline of organized sports; through their extraordinary efforts, these mentors have distinguished themselves as role models for youth and community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such remarkable person is Coach Don Durden who, for 43 years as a full-time head coach, assistant coach, teacher, semi-retired substitute teacher and volunteer assistant coach, has consistently given of his time and talent to coach and mentor youth, while amassing an impressive record in regular and post season play and receiving many honors; and

WHEREAS, a 1957 graduate of Huntingdon High School, Coach Durden is a 1961 graduate of Bethel College and earned a Master's Degree from the University of Mississippi in 1967; the son of a father who played on a state championship baseball team and later played for a minor league pro team, Don Durden has been involved in sports all his life; and

WHEREAS, Don Durden came to Greenfield High School in 1961, where he served as Head Basketball Coach, until he departed in 1987 for McKenzie; he remained at McKenzie as Head Basketball Coach until 1996, when he returned to Greenfield as an Assistant Coach at the Junior High School. Now semi-retired, he occasionally serves as a substitute teacher and as a volunteer assistant coach; and

WHEREAS, over his long career in coaching, Coach Durden's boys' basketball teams won 650 games and he has over 700 total wins; his teams played in the State Tournament in

1982 and won the State Tournament in 1984. As an Assistant Coach, one of his teams was the State Tournament Runner-up; and

WHEREAS, one of Coach Durden's teams boasted an undefeated regular season, and he has coached six First Team All-Staters, several Honorable Mention All-Staters, a Most Valuable Player in a State Tournament, and a West Tennessee Player of the Year; he has placed teams in the State Tournament five times, as both Head Coach and Assistant Coach, has had many players on All District and All Region teams, and 12 of his basketball players have played in college; and

WHEREAS, Coach Durden led a girls' basketball team to the state semi-finals, had a girls' team player named to the All State Tournament team, and saw two of his girls' team players go on to play college ball; Coach Durden also utilized his abilities in baseball, producing an undefeated regular season baseball team and sending three boys on to play college baseball; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to honors and accolades, Coach Durden has been named District Coach of the Year numerous times, Region Coach of the Year in both boys' and girls basketball, Tennessee Athletic Coaches Association Statewide Coach of the Year, Northwest Tennessee Basketball Officials Association Coach of the Year, and *Jackson Sun* West Tennessee Coach of the Year; and

WHEREAS, though primarily a basketball coach, Don Durden has served as an Assistant High School Football Coach and a Head Baseball coach; he has been an Assistant Coach in the Tennessee Athletic Coaches Association East-West All-State Basketball Game, has conducted and participated in many players' and coaches' clinics, has helped in Special Olympics and lectured at the West Tennessee Basketball Coaches' Clinic and in classes at the University of Tennessee at Martin (UTM); and

WHEREAS, Coach Durden has also contributed to the civic life of the communities in which he has lived; he is a former president of the Greenfield Rotary Club and is an Elder in the First Presbyterian Church of Greenfield; and

WHEREAS, in addition to his highly successful and demanding career, Don Durden has remained committed to the values of family and community; he is most grateful for the love and

companionship he shares with his wife, Kay, a University of Tennessee National Alumni Association Distinguished Professor at UTM; son, David, an Engineer with AAB in Alamo, who played point guard for his father; special daughter-in-law Lisa, and Smartest Grandson in the World, Cid; and

WHEREAS, Coach Durden has served the people of Greenfield and McKenzie with distinction, not only as a coach, but also as a community leader, mentor, neighbor, and friend; and

WHEREAS, Don Durden epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean, as he has served with great diligence and has positively influenced the lives of many young men and women; and

WHEREAS, despite the fact that Coach Durden and his teams were particularly hard on the Senate sponsor of this resolution, the sponsor has so much respect and fondness for Dan and Kay Durden; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Coach Durden for his numerous contributions to Tennessee high school and junior high school athletics; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Coach Don Durden for his meritorious service to the good people of Greenfield and McKenzie, as a teacher, coach, and mentor and extend to him our best wishes for much continued happiness and satisfaction, and every success in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.